

Fair, with slight change in temperature probable.

# Memphis Commercial Appeal

ONLY NEWSPAPER IN MEMPHIS SUPPLIED BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

WITH NEWS OF THE DAYLIGHT HOURS AS SOON AS IT HAPPENS

MEMPHIS, TENN., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 20, 1920.

EIGHTEEN PAGES.

NUMBER 251.

## BOY WHIPPED AND MURDERED BY CLUB PLAYING IN PARK

### MAHON WHIPPED AND MURDERED BY CLUB PLAYING IN PARK

Tells Philadelphia Police of Alleged Attempt at Lynching in South Carolina After Aiding Banker's Daughter.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 20.—A man giving the name of McMahon, of Yonkers, N. Y., with his wrists scarred by a rope and his back bearing the marks of a whip, left a Philadelphia hotel today and boarded a train for South Carolina to assist Miss Florence Powell, of Aiken, S. C., in a settlement which involved a division of her father's estate.

His underclothing was stiff with blood, and besides lash marks, his body and neck bore the marks of a rope with which he said his tormentors had attempted to hang him. Police here are investigating his story of attempted lynching and misdeeds.

McMahon, who is 55 years old, said he was seized when he left the train at Trenton, N. J., and was driven to a point where his mistreatment took place, he said, eight men wearing white hoods gathered around and beat him.

"They threw a rope around my neck, and then tried to put the other end over a tree, but it would not reach," McMahon said at the Hahnemann hospital today. "After a severe beating the men told me they had decided to let me go."

"Then they drove me to Denmark, S. C. They gave me money to buy my ticket to New York, after making me promise I would not return. All the way from Denmark to Washington some one came to the car occasionally and after looking at me inquired about my movements. This man acted as guard to see that I did not leave the train."

McMahon said he was too weak to leave the train at Washington. He said he was taken to a rooming house at Aiken and was kept there for several days.

According to McMahon, the father made a division of his property among his children. Florence Powell's share was \$50,000. McMahon said he was not allowed to see his daughter.

McMahon described his movements in South Carolina and the feeling engendered by the interest he took in the case which resulted in the alleged mistreatment.

McMahon also said that when one of the men who beat him asked if he would sign a paper saying Miss Powell was incompetent, he refused. A rope was tied around his neck, he said, and he was dragged for a long time.

McMahon said he was taken to a rooming house at Aiken and was kept there for several days.

McMahon said he was taken to a rooming house at Aiken and was kept there for several days.

### MAHON WHIPPED AND MURDERED BY CLUB PLAYING IN PARK

Tells Philadelphia Police of Alleged Attempt at Lynching in South Carolina After Aiding Banker's Daughter.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 20.—A man giving the name of McMahon, of Yonkers, N. Y., with his wrists scarred by a rope and his back bearing the marks of a whip, left a Philadelphia hotel today and boarded a train for South Carolina to assist Miss Florence Powell, of Aiken, S. C., in a settlement which involved a division of her father's estate.

His underclothing was stiff with blood, and besides lash marks, his body and neck bore the marks of a rope with which he said his tormentors had attempted to hang him. Police here are investigating his story of attempted lynching and misdeeds.

McMahon, who is 55 years old, said he was seized when he left the train at Trenton, N. J., and was driven to a point where his mistreatment took place, he said, eight men wearing white hoods gathered around and beat him.

"They threw a rope around my neck, and then tried to put the other end over a tree, but it would not reach," McMahon said at the Hahnemann hospital today. "After a severe beating the men told me they had decided to let me go."

"Then they drove me to Denmark, S. C. They gave me money to buy my ticket to New York, after making me promise I would not return. All the way from Denmark to Washington some one came to the car occasionally and after looking at me inquired about my movements. This man acted as guard to see that I did not leave the train."

McMahon said he was too weak to leave the train at Washington. He said he was taken to a rooming house at Aiken and was kept there for several days.

According to McMahon, the father made a division of his property among his children. Florence Powell's share was \$50,000. McMahon said he was not allowed to see his daughter.

McMahon described his movements in South Carolina and the feeling engendered by the interest he took in the case which resulted in the alleged mistreatment.

McMahon also said that when one of the men who beat him asked if he would sign a paper saying Miss Powell was incompetent, he refused. A rope was tied around his neck, he said, and he was dragged for a long time.

McMahon said he was taken to a rooming house at Aiken and was kept there for several days.

McMahon said he was taken to a rooming house at Aiken and was kept there for several days.

## "I'm Sorry I Killed Johnny," Sobs Lad On Detective's Knee

Pistol Found In Ransacked Cabin Takes Life Toll

Bandit Game Ends in Tragic Death—One Boy's Straight-forward Story Leads to Other's Confession.

"I shot Johnny. I shot poor little Johnny. We were playing burglar." Between pitiful sobs that shook his small frame Troy Boyd Mays, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Mays, 521 Linden avenue, late Tuesday night made a complete confession of his part in a tragedy which Tuesday afternoon took the life of his playmate, seven-year-old John Dutton, favorite son of the household of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dutton, 825 Linden avenue.

The dead boy was known as "Johnny" to his brothers and sisters and the boys of the neighborhood. The confession was wrung from the sobbing youth by Lieut. Walter Hoyte, assistant chief of detectives, after 30 minutes of questioning, and following an unshakable story told over and over by Robert Thurman, aged seven, who was with the two boys.

Lieut. Hoyte told the Mays lad the story of how several boys accidentally killed Charles Weiss while they were playing "cowboy" and that helped to break him down. The confession was made in the presence of Hoyte and a crowd of neighbors, who pleaded with the lad to tell the truth. Finally the boy broke down completely.

It was a simple story. It has been enacted thousands of times before, with the same results. Little Johnny, Troy Boyd Mays, and Robert Thurman met shortly after dark Tuesday afternoon. Their games were old, and they sought something new. One of the boys suggested they enter the home of Mr. Mays, who lived on Linden avenue, directly in the rear of the Dutton residence.

Troy obtained a carpenter's hammer and broke open the door of the house. The boys sneaked in—playing "burglar" with all the true art of a boy's plan. Troy broke open a small wooden box, while Robert emptied a sack of flour on the floor. The Thurman boy found a revolver in the box. The Mays boy found another, a larger pistol.

"Then we played burglar," cried the Mays lad, "and I shot poor little Johnny." The boy was shot in the left arm. The bullet then entered his body, penetrating the heart. Death probably came instantly.

In a few minutes they were playing in a nearby sand pile, the tragedy forgotten. The shooting occurred at about 8:30 o'clock. The time was established by Mrs. R. G. Fikes, 823 Linden avenue, who said she saw the boys in the sand pile.

## APPEAL IS MADE FOR HELP FOR FARMER

Many Organizations Appeal to Secretary of Treasury for Resumption of Board to Finance Cotton.

RESOLUTIONS APPEALING FOR HELP FOR COTTON FARMER

"Whereas, the sharp contraction during the past few weeks in domestic demand for American products has been so acute as to bring about serious business situation and as to threaten even more unfortunate conditions in agriculture and commercial business; and

"Whereas, the European market has in the past under ordinary world conditions seemed to be a large measure as an outlet for the American producer; and

"Whereas, Europe, although desperately in need of American products today, both for the purpose of feeding and clothing its populations and of giving them employment, is unable to afford relief to the American producer by reason of the need on the part of the European buyer for long-term credits; and

"Whereas, the war finance corporation, by its action in purchasing American products on credit up to five years in duration; and

"Whereas, the war finance corporation did, up to May 1, 1920, demonstrate its utility to the country by assisting on a large scale in the exportation of American products on credits of from six months to five years; and

"Whereas, the secretary of the treasury, in May, 1920, caused said corporation to suspend such special credit; and

"Whereas, the secretary of the treasury has been requested to resume the special credit; and

## BRITAIN EXPECTS NEGOTIATIONS TO END STRIKE SOON

Premier Insists Settlement Be Final—Reported Willing to Grant Raise on Production Increase Condition.

LONDON, Oct. 20.—Negotiations which might settle the strike of British miners today were believed to be assured. Government officials and labor leaders who outlined their positions before the opening session of parliament, have shown their desire to reach an understanding. Belief was general today that proposals were in preparation by both sides.

Premier Lloyd George has definitely declared he is ready to enter into negotiations, but he has emphasized that the government wants a final settlement of the differences, which brought about a cessation of work in British mines last Saturday. He has declared plans for a tentative wage increase, pending a complete adjustment, would not be satisfactory as that method of meeting the present situation would threaten trouble later.

Coal production, he said, must be augmented and he may submit some proposals which will deal with this phase of the situation.

This morning's newspapers commented appreciatively on the calm and dignified tone yesterday in the house of commons, and the absence of provocative words. This fact is regarded as a good omen, journals maintaining that, although the deadlock continues, the debate has cleared the stage for a compromise.

One possible basis for a settlement is set forth by the Daily Mail, which says if the miners are willing definitely to agree that an advance of two shillings given now may be withdrawn at the end of November if production is not increased by that time, the government will consider such a proposal. The government, however, will probably insist upon its position regarding production, the newspaper says.

In the meantime reports of the closing of industries in the north, coupled with assertions that workers in other trades who are losing employment through the miners' strike, are showing resentment. This is said to be especially noticeable in the Middleborough iron and steel district and the neighboring parts of Northeastern England.

The National Union of Railwaymen, the executives of the transport workers, and the parliamentary committee of the trades union congress held a meeting today to discuss the attitude of the government toward the coal strike, but thus far no decisions have been taken. The greatest importance attached to the attitude of the government toward the coal strike, was a full delegates' conference, with power to declare a sympathetic strike without referring the matter to the union members.

The national council of the independent labor party adopted a resolution today expressing grave apprehension over the attitude of the government toward the coal strike, and an aggressive challenge to the whole working class movement. The resolution requested the labor party to convene a special conference.

### PRINCIPALS IN BOYHOOD TRAGEDY



Upper picture shows outside of shack where a seven-year-old boy was shot and killed by a companion while they were playing burglar. The photo at the lower left is that of the victim, Johnny Dutton. In the center is the heartbroken father, Troy Boyd Mays. At the right is Robert Thurman, who told police that "Troy shot Johnny."

## TWELVE DIE IN TWO TRAIN WRECKS; ONE IN VIRGINIA

Three Killed And Five Injured In Smash At Bristol

ROANOKE, Va., Oct. 20.—Three trainmen were killed and five were more or less injured and five or six passengers were shaken up in a head-on collision on the passing siding at Rural Retreat, Va., between passenger trains Nos. 14 and 37 at 8:45 o'clock this morning, according to an official bulletin issued from the Norfolk and Western office here.

The dead: J. W. Linkous, of Roanoke, engineer on No. 37; N. T. Pyritz, of Bristol, engineer on No. 14; Frank Beckler, of Bristol, fireman on No. 37.

The injured: W. J. Walden, fireman; Mail Clerk Stark, baggage-master Turner, Conductor Wise, Newmont, and Brakeman Martin on No. 14.

The cause of the accident, the bulletin said, was due to the passing siding switch being open.

Early reports to railroad men were that a party of signal repairmen working near the station had become confused when they saw the two passenger trains coming from opposite directions, and one of them was thrown in a ditch when the train from Buffalo rushed by. The next instant the crash came. One of the dead was believed to be a signal man.

RUFFALO, N. Y., Oct. 20.—A telephone message from Erie Pa., at noon today said 12 persons were killed in the collision between two New York Central passenger trains there. Fifteen injured have been taken to hospitals.

### BOYS AT HIGH SCHOOL RESENT ALLEGED CHARGES

Say They Will Clear Name of Charges Attributed to Street Car Superintendent Ford.

Boys of Central high school went on record as resenting charges which they said had been made against them by E. W. Ford, superintendent of the Memphis Street Railway company, at a meeting held at the high school building Tuesday afternoon.

According to the boys of the school Mr. Ford had charged them with many sorts of improper conduct on board the cars. These included, according to the boys, pushing and crowding on the cars in a manner which worried the conductors in making change; that the boys rang the bells on the cars all the way to Main street, and the motorman, as a result, never knew where to stop; that several window glasses had been broken and that cars on the Peabody line nearly always had to go to the shop for repairs after a run on that line; that bell ropes were cut and that trolleys were pulled off the wire.

Some of the students made speeches at Tuesday's meeting, in which they acknowledged that some of the charges were true, but that the more serious ones were not substantiated by facts. The meeting adopted a resolution pledging the boys to see to it in the future that there should be no cause for complaint of the conduct of the boys.

Whereas, the secretary of the school will clear her own name and adjust this matter to her own satisfaction.

The students said that the school board over the efforts of the school to have the cars stop directly in front of the building, as when the weather is unfavorable the students have to wait outside in streets in rain and snow, thus inviting colds, pneumonia and other sickness. The students further stated that recently a child was knocked down by an automobile at the stop at the intersection of Eastmoreland avenue and Bellevue boulevard, and that the student body wished to see that the school was not so far from high school students were concerned.

They stated that, at the request of the student body, the Memphis Trades and Labor council had recently appointed a committee to wait on Mr. Ford with the request that the stop be moved to the front of the building. This committee reported, according to statements at Tuesday's meeting, that Mr. Ford refused to make the stop as requested, for the reason that it would make the cars have to stop three times within 200 feet, and for the further reason of the misconduct of the boys, as stated above.

Mr. Ford was further said to have stated to the committee that he wished the cars did not have to stop within five blocks of the high school building.

Further resolved that the president of this organization be and he is hereby authorized and requested to submit a committee to the secretary of the treasury.

### AIKIN DENIES VIOLENCE AGAINST YONKERS MAN

COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 20.—Denial is made in telephone advices from Aiken today that any "white cap" activities have taken place in Aiken or Edgefield counties, in connection with the visit of Peter McMahon, of Yonkers, N. Y., to that section.

### MacSweeney Spends Hours In Delirium; Fast In 69th Day

LONDON, Oct. 20.—Lord Mayor MacSweeney of Cork suffered a second attack of extreme delirium shortly after 10 o'clock this morning, the 69th day of his hunger strike, said a bulletin issued by the Irish Socialist Federation today.

"All his relatives were summoned to him," the bulletin added. "The attack lasted until 12 o'clock, and at 1 o'clock the lord mayor had regained his normal condition. He now is quiet, but not yet quite normal mentally."

MacSweeney and even worse attack was sustained by the lord mayor this afternoon was reported in a league bulletin, issued at 4 p.m., which read:

The lord mayor had a second and more violent paroxysm of delirium this afternoon which lasted a considerable time. He is now quiet and more normal mentally."

Forty-eight ships sold.

### \$193,038 Is Total Realized To Meet Creditors Of Ponzi

BOSTON, Oct. 20.—The federal receiver of Charles Ponzi in a preliminary report today said that they have been able to collect to date only \$193,038 in cash as assets to meet the claims for millions presented by an army of disappointed investors in his get-rich-quick scheme.

In addition, however, the receiver held property which has not been appraised, certificates of deposit aggregating \$1,058,221 from the Hanover Trust company, now closed, and \$225,000 in notes secured and unsecured.

### COTTON HITS 15 CENT LEVEL IN TEXARKANA

TEXARKANA, Ark., Oct. 20.—Cotton reached the low mark of 15 cents on the local crop market today, this being the cheapest price offered in several years.

### Ex-Slave Tells How He Got Rich

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 20.—Born a slave, and now reputed to be one of the wealthiest and most respected negroes in the South, David T. Howard, 72, yesterday celebrated his golden wedding anniversary and made it the occasion to give some advice to members of his race.

Beginning on a legacy of \$150, left by his former master, Howard now owns a business rated as one of the largest of its kind in the city and financial institutions readily make loans on his name.

### HOUSTON ASSERTS U. S. EXPENSES TO BE FOUR BILLIONS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—Government expenditures of four billion dollars during the next fiscal year were forecast by Secretary Houston of the treasury department today, in an address before the convention of the American Bankers' association, in which he covered a wide range of financial and economic problems of the country.

The secretary outlined the treasury's program for handling the war debt, liquidation of which, he said, must go on steadily in order that first redemption be accomplished without disturbance to national life.

He appealed for "the strictest economy not only in our expenditures, federal, state, county and municipal, but also by thrift on the part of our people," adding that the program necessitated the maintenance of tax levels of not less than \$4,000,000,000 annually.

Mr. Houston said there were indications of falling receipts, because there was no means of predicting the course of business or incomes and profits. The receipts for the present fiscal year, he reported, would be materially less than the record of \$5,500,000,000 last year, expressing the belief that the receipts would not greatly exceed the required \$4,000,000,000 for the present year.

### Shannon's Heart Trouble Was Not Cardiac; No, Mam!

Charles R. Shannon, the amiable commissioner who handles city finances, Wednesday was explaining to friends that he had no intention of marrying, at least, just now. Some one had spread the rumor about that Shannon had lost his heart.

Truly Shannon, who is a model of sartorial perfection, sports a rakish looking auto, and is one of Memphis' most eligible bachelors, did lose a heart. But the loss in question came on resignation of H. E. Hart, auditor in the commissioner's office.

Hart tendered his resignation early this week and it was accepted when he explained that he had another position. Hart was in the finance office for three years.

CLAIMS THIRTY STATES.

### JURY TRIES TO PUT TAX BACK IN TAXI

A jury in Second circuit court Wednesday did its best to put the "tax back in taxi" when it rendered a verdict against the Yellow Cab company for \$3,105, in favor of C. W. Wilson.

Wilson sued for \$10,000, alleging that in September, 1919, while a passenger in a Yellow cab, he was injured when the cab went over a bumper near Raines, Tenn., and tossed him against the roof and to the floor. John H. Poston, Jr., was Wilson's attorney.

### Old Sol May Fade Is Scott's Forecast

The weather will continue warm Thursday, although the sun may not shine so brightly, according to the forecast issued Wednesday by Weatherman Scott.

The Mississippi river is scheduled to fall for several days in this district. The gauge Wednesday showed a stage of 4 feet, indicating a fall of 1 of a foot during the last 24 hours.

### \$100,000,000 PROJECT PLANNED

Bankers Approve Proposal to Extend Foreign Business.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—Approval of a proposal to organize a \$100,000,000 corporation to finance the national debt was given today by the American Bankers' association, in convention here.

President Hawes was authorized to call a meeting of bankers and business men to work out plans for the formation of such a corporation under the provisions of the recently enacted Edge law, as proposed in the report of the association's committee on commerce and merchant marine, which was presented today.

The people of the United States are carrying around in their pockets or hiding at home \$2,000,000,000 of American currency, or nearly one-half the total supply, said Fred W. Ellsworth, vice-president of the Hillier Bank and Trust company of New Orleans.

### BURNS POLITICAL MAIL; 'TOO HEAVY'

CHICAGO, Oct. 20.—George Klutz, aged 21, a mail carrier was arrested today and turned over to federal authorities, charged with burning political matter sent through the mails "because it was his pack too heavy."

Klutz told police that when he was assigned to his route, he was told to burn political matter sent through the mails "because it was his pack too heavy."

He is confident that if the different organizations throughout the South make unanimous request the secretary of the treasury can not fail to heed the demand.

KING IMPROVES.

### MEMPHIS PAYING LOWER PRICE FOR FOOD, SAYS U. S.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—The decline in the retail price of foodstuffs during September was placed at 2.5 per cent, according to the department of labor bureau of labor statistics in its monthly report today on food costs.

Some foodstuffs, notably potatoes and sugar, sustained a marked decrease in price while others, including such commodities as eggs, pork chops and oranges, underwent price increases ranging from eight per cent for oranges to 13 per cent for eggs. The drop in the price of potatoes was placed at 22 per cent; sugar, 20 per cent; cabbage, 14 per cent, and coffee, 8 per cent.

The decline in retail prices, however, according to the bureau's figures did not keep pace with the drop in wholesale quotations. The latter were placed at 5 per cent, compared with the 2 per cent decrease in the retailers' prices to the consumer.

Not one of the 51 leading cities of the country shared alike in the retail price decline, the drop being estimated at 6 per cent in Butte, Mont., while it was less than five-fifths of one per cent in Boston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Omaha, Pittsburgh and Washington.

Decreases of 3 per cent were reported from Charleston, S. C.; Jacksonville, Little Rock, Milwaukee, New Orleans and Scranton. The decline was estimated at 2 per cent in Atlanta, Baltimore, Buffalo, Columbus, O., Dallas, Denver, Indianapolis, Louisville, Manchester, N. H.; Memphis, Mobile, Peoria, Portland, Me.; Richmond, Rochester, St. Louis, Salt Lake City and Springfield, Ill., and one per cent in Birmingham, Bridgeport, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Fall River, Houston, Kansas City, Newark, New Haven, New York, Norfolk, Philadelphia, Portland, Ore.; Providence, St. Paul, Savannah and Seattle.

Pynde Back On Job After Ford Jaunt

John Pynde, police desk sergeant, is going to read Mark Twain's "Roughing It" in his idle moments, to see how the book compares with the real thing. He returned Tuesday from Mississippi, where with his wife, he had a long trip by automobile. During the absence of Sergeant Pynde, Sergeant J. Joe Cole charged the desk.